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THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1944

SECTION A.

1.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area 47,270 acres. Population (Registrar General's estimate) 12,200.
No. of inhabited houses 3,497. Rateable Value £40,779.
Sum represented by a penny rate £169 18s. 3d.

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics of the year.

		Total.	M.	F.			
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate,	201	112	89	211	Live Birth Rate per 1000, 17.3.	England & Wales, 17.6
	Illegitimate,	10	6	4			
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate,	7	2	5	7	Rate per 1000 population, 0.5. Rate per 1000 total births, 32.1.	England & Wales, 0.50
	Illegitimate,	0	0	0			
DEATHS.	Male,	86			172	Death Rate	Gross 14.1. England & Wales, 11.6
	Female,	86					

(A) Number of women dying in consequence of child-birth { from sepsis ... 0 / other causes ... 1 } Rate per 1000 total births 4.6

TOTAL 1

(B) Deaths of infants under one year of age. Legitimate 2 Illegitimate 1 ... ... Total 3
All infants per 1000 live births, 14.2. England & Wales, 46
Legitimate infants per 1000 Legitimate live births, 9.9
Illegitimate infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births, 100

(C) Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... M 18 F 13 ... ... Total 31

(D) ,, ,, Measles (all ages) 0

(E) ,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

(F) ,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... M 0 F 1 ... ... Total 1

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services.

A. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—part time.

Sanitary Inspector—one—whole time. Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute. Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Association. G. F. Rampling, resigned 31st December, 1944.

One full time Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. D. Rampling, resigned 30th September, 1944.

J. A. E. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B. Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, appointed December 1st, 1944.

B. LABORATARY FACILITIES. No change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Conditions in the Area.

WATER.

Schemes for the provision of piped supplies to the central and southern areas of the district were completed in 1939, and serve the parishes of Great Cornard, Newton, Assington, Great Waldingfield, Acton, Long Melford, Stoke-by-Nayland, Nayland and Bures St. Mary. Two bores were sunk, one at Gt. Cornard and the other at Stoke-by-Nayland, and an adequate supply of pure water has been maintained. The parish of Bures St. Mary is served by water purchased in bulk from the Lexden and Winstree R.D.C. No extentions have been made during the year.

The parish of Glemsford has a piped supply, installed when that parish was an Urban District.

712 houses are connected to the mains supply, and in addition 537 dwellings are served by standpipes.

The water from the bore-wells at Great Cornard and Stoke-by-Nayland is automatically chlorinated. 5 samples were taken during the year, showing that all sources of supply give pure and wholesome waters, of great organic and bacteriological purity.

The original scheme to provide the northern half of the area with water from a bore at Lawshall has been abandoned, as an adequate supply was not obtained. It is now proposed to sink additional bores at Great Cornard to supply the northern half of the area, with possible extensions to other out-lying parts not yet served. Areas without piped supplies are served by shallow wells. Chemical analysis of these are done as required. In a few parishes it has been necessary to arrange for the regular carting of water.

The supervision of the Council's Water Supply Schemes has been placed in the hands of the Council's Water Engineer, Mr. H. J. Harrington.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Before 1939 it was recognised that in some of the larger parishes the drainage problem, already acute, would be greatly aggravated by the provision of a piped supply.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have therefore been instructed to prepare Sewerage Schemes for the parishes of Glemsford, Long Melford, Great Cornard, Bures St. Mary, Nayland, Stoke-by-Nayland, Hartest, Boxted and Acton.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Regular Collections under contract of house refuse and night soil are made in the parishes of Long Melford and Bures St. Mary. Private collections of house refuse only are made in two other parishes. The problem of domestic refuse is difficult, and the Sanitary Inspector has been instructed to submit to the Council a scheme to cover the whole area.

NUISANCES.

All complaints received were investigated and dealt with informally. No statutory action was required.

HOUSING.

The restrictions on material and the scarcity of labour has made it impossible to maintain the pre-war standard of housing work, but endeavours have been made to get such repairs done as will keep the properties reasonably weatherproof.

Preliminary inspections of 178 houses were made in connection with the Survey of Rural Housing.

SECTION D.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There is a Government Slaughter House in this area.

210 visits were made to the slaughter house, and 57,866 lbs. of meat and offals condemned. Of this quantity, 32,208 lbs. were affected with tuberculosis, including 32 beef carcases and 1 pig carcase, these with all offals weighing 10,779 lbs.

The following quantities of tinned foods were condemned at the Meat Depot and retail shops.

Various Meat Preparations	54 tins.
Fish	10 tins.
Milk (Condensed)	184 tins.
Fruit	3 tins.

Routine inspections of bakehouses and cowhouses were carried out. Improvements to existing cowhouses were obtained in many cases, together with the erection of several new ones.

SECTION E.

RODENT CONTROL.

A Rodent Operator was appointed on the 6th of January, to work under the direction of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. As far as possible, work of rodent control was carried through district by district, and all larger parishes were treated during the year. Good results were obtained. The following visits were made by the Rodent Operator.

Survey and Enquiries	1,235 visits.
Prebaiting	686 visits.
Poisonings	170 visits.
Following-up visits	Not recorded.

The Rodent Operator was loaned to the Borough of Sudbury on approximately 70 working days.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

CASES NOTIFIED.

Disease.	No. Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	9	7	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Whooping Cough ...	34	0	0
Measles	2	0	0
Pneumonia	5	0	0
Malaria	5	5	0

SCARLET FEVER.

Of these 9 cases, 5 were in one house, the first case coming to the house already infected. The other 4 were sporadic in nature and untraced.

WHOOPING COUGH.

All these cases occurred in two parishes and the number notified does not in any way represent the number of cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New notifications, number 13; Pulmonary 9 and Non-Pulmonary 4.
Transfers into district, number 12; Pulmonary 11 and Non-Pulmonary 1.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Age Periods.	New Cases.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under one year	...	...	...	...
1—	...	...	1	...
5—	...	...	...	...
10—	...	...	2	1
15—	1	1	...	...
20—	1	...	...	...
25—	1	1	...	...
35—	3	...	...	...
45—	...	...	...	...
55—	...	...	...	...
65 and over	1	...	...	...
Total ...	7	2	3	1
	9		4	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This is mainly carried out at the Schools. It is estimated that 82% of children under 5 and 84% of children between 5 and 15 have had a course of treatment.

R. W. RIX, M.O.H.